the proposed branch Representations are received from time to time from Members of Parliament as also from members of the public for opening of bank offices at various centres in the country including centres in rural and urban areas in Gujarat. These representations are referred to RBI for consideration in accordance with the norms laid down under the current Branch Licensing Policy. On the basis of facts ascertained from RBI, the concerned representationists are generally advised of the position. However, the existing information system does not yield detailed information relating to such representations in the manner asked for RBI has reported that during the period 1-1-1985 to 30-6-1987, the commercial banks including the RRBs have opened 212 branches in Gujarat.

Persons Killed/Injured By Terrorists in Punjab

1754. DR. BAPU KALDATE Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons killed/injured by terrorists in Punjab during the period from 15th August to 15th October, 1987;

(b) the number of terrorists killed/arrested, separately, during the above period; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to take military assistance to weed out the terrorists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the Government of Punjab, 1984 persons were killed and 155 were injured in incidents due to terrorist activities in the State during the period 15th August, 1987 to 15th October, 1987. Sixty two terrorists were kiled and 635 suspected terrorists were arrested during the same period.

(c) No, Sir.

Excise Duty on Consumer Electronic Goods

1755. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have rationalised the excise duty in respect of certain consumer electronic goods;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof,

(c) what are the main considerations for this alteration in the excise duties; and

(d) whether Government have imposed any fresh excise duties in September, 1987?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Items on which excise duty has been changed alongwith the new rates are detailed below:

Name	Rates
(1) Radios in combination with clock	Twenty percent advalorem.
(2) Broadcast television receiver sets (monochrome) of screen size not exceeding 15 centimetres.	Rs. 200.00 per set.
(3) Broadcast television receiver sets (monochrome) of screen size not exceeding 15 centimetres *but in combination with.*—	
(i) Clock	Rs. 200.00 per set.
(ii) radios with or without clock	Rs. 250.00 per set.
(iii) cassette recorder/player with or without clock.	Rs. 300.00 per set.
(iv) cassette recorder/player and radio with or without clock..	Rs. 350.00 per set.
(4) Broadcast television receiver sets (monochrome) of screen size exceeding 15 centimetres but not exceeding 36 centimetres in combination with radio with or without clock.	Nil
(5) Broadcast television receiver sets (monochrome) of screen size exceeding 36 centimetres in combination with,—	
(i) Clock	Rs. 300.00 per set.
(ii) radio with or without clock	Rs. 350.00 per set.

(c) Combination sets were earlier attracting a higher rate of duty than the duty on individual constituent items put together. The rates on such sets were, therefore, rationalised so as to prescribe a rate equal to the sum of the duty incidence on the main constituent items. On monochrome television sets of screen size upto 15 cms a duty of Rs 200 per set was imposed considering that such sets are likely to be purchased by the more affluent sections of the society.

(d) During September, 1987 some of the existing exeptions in respect of excisable goods were modified which have the effect of increasing the duty incidence on certain goods.

The details are given below:

(i) MODVAT and related benefits to aerated waters were withdrawn;

(ii) The exemption for certain goods manufactured without the aid of power was strictly enforced so as to deny the benefits to fireworks; and

(iii) The general scheme of small scale exemption for specified goods and the scheme for cosmetics and toilet preparations and refrigerating and air-conditioning appliances were modified by separate notifications issued in September, 1987 so as to deny the benefit in the case of goods manufactured under the brand name/trade name of a big manufacturer or trader.